

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT COPENHAGEN 399 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
BRUSSELS EC BRUSSELS BUCHAREST DUBLIN GENEVA THE HAGUE
LONDON LUXEMBOURG PARIS OECD PARIS ROME SOFIA 04 FEB

QUOTE

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, COMECON, DA

SUBJ: COMECON APPROACH TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

REF: COPENHAGEN A-87, JULY 27, 1975

1. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL DANISH PRESS BUREAU RITZAU REPORTS
FROM BUCHAREST THAT AN APPROACH BY COMECON TOWARD THE EC
WAS THE CENTRAL ISSUE IN DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN'S
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY FEBRUARY 2.
ANDERSEN IS OFFICIALLY VISITING SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN
CAPITALS.

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN ANDERSEN'S DELEGATION, THE
BUREAU REPORTS, AN INITIATIVE FROM COMECON MAY BE
EXPECTED SHORTLY TO PAVE THE ROAD FOR AN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. RUMANIAN LEADERS
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CONFIRMED THE IMPRESSION WHICH ANDERSEN GOT LAST

WEEK IN SOFIA WHERE PRESIDENT TODOR ZHIVKOV REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT A COMECON INITIATIVE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

3. THE ACTUAL NATURE OF THE INITIATIVE HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY DISCLOSED. RITZAU, HOWEVER, QUOTES "INFORMED CIRCLES IN BUCHAREST" STATING THAT IT WILL BE A PROPOSAL FOR AN "UMBRELLA" AGREEMENT PERMITTING EACH COMECON COUNTRY TO ENTER SEPARATE AGREEMENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL EC COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ANDERSEN'S VISITS TO EASTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS IS TO PROMOTE DANISH TRADE, THE RITZAU REPORT SUGGESTS THAT HE MAY SEE HIMSELF IN THE LARGER ROLE OF PROMOTING CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE EC. INASMUCH AS HE IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE EC APPROVAL FOR SUCH INITIATIVES, HE MAY RUN INTO CRITICISM FROM DENMARK'S EC PARTNERS. FOREIGN ECONOMIC MINISTER NORGAAARD WAS EARLIER INVOLVED IN A SIMILAR SITUATION REGARDING HIS CONTACTS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (SEE REFAIR). DEAN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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